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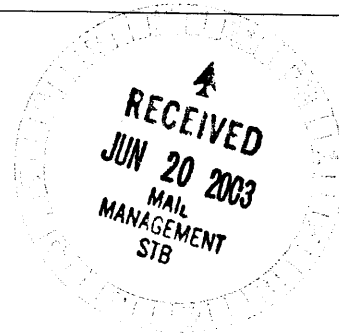
F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#E1-165

RQ

June 11, 2003

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423



Re: *Project review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
Proposed Railway, Medina County. (STB)*

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Thank you for your correspondence describing the above referenced project. This letter serves as comment on the proposed undertaking from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission.

The review staff, led by Pam Opiela, has completed its review of the project documentation provided. In April, we received a letter from your office requesting our comments. Neither that letter nor the latest correspondence includes information necessary to complete the Section 106 review process as required under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. We have contacted Ms. Rini Ghosh and requested that the Surface Transportation Board identify cultural resources within the area of potential effect. This documentation should include surveys of archaeological sites and historic structures. We are aware that there are important historic resources located adjacent to the routes you propose, including the Schuehle-Saathoff House, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. Please send the required documentation per 36 CFR 800, Section 800.4 of the National Preservation Act.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your cooperation in this federal review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. **If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Pam Opiela at 512/463-6218.**

Yours truly,

for: F. Lawrence Oaks, State Historic Preservation Officer

cc. Ed Baker, THC Archaeology Division; Peter Ketter, THC History Programs Division
FLO/PO